

March 19, 2013

**Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and Members of the Public Health Committee,**

My Name is Celeste Baranowski and I live & work in Stamford, CT. I currently practice fulltime as a public health dental hygienist and parttime in private practice. I have sent testimony and we have spoken regarding this issue before, as I have been personally working on it since 2004!

I am providing this as testimony regarding two bills being raised in the legislature this week;

**HB No. 6589 and SB No. 993.** As you are a Public Health Committee member, you have heard much on these subjects. I would like to draw a comparison which I believe will clear up some confusion.

If we compare medicine and dentistry, it might look like this:

**CNA** (Certified Nurse Assistant) **compares to CDA** (Certified Dental Assistant)

**LPN** (Licensed Practical Nurse) **compares to EFDA** (Expanded Function Dental Assistant / without the license & oversight)

**RN** (Registered (Licensed) Nurse) **compares to RDH** (Registered (Licensed) Dental Hygienist)

**APRN** (Advanced Practice Registered (Licensed) Nurse) **compares to ADHP** (Advanced (Licensed) Dental Hygiene Practitioner)

**MD** (Licensed) **compares to DDS or DMD** (Licensed)

This does not create a two tier system; instead it will close the gap by inserting the missing step to move dentistry into integrated care. All of these professions are meant to augment one another. ADHP's will work under a collaborative agreement, which public health settings already use. In other words, we refer to our dentist partners currently and this will not change. The transition will be easy for us because it is how we function presently. Collaborative practice is currently found in a public health settings' policy, so it would not be difficult to institute.

**HB No. 6589** "The Establishment of a Task Force to Study the Scope of Practice of a Dental Hygienist"

~ A dental hygiene midlevel provider has been studied and explored numerous times since the 1940's. A study is not required to show what we have already researched and presented. The CT Dental Hygienists' Association (CDHA) has provided this background information.

**SB No. 993**, "An act Concerning Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary"

~ As written, the bill language allows for too much open interpretation, the dental auxiliary language could be edited to be more precise, as was agreed to during last years' Program, Review and Investigation (PRI) process. EFDA is proposed with only the individual dentists oversight, in our opinion and for public safety DPH should oversee the EFDA certification as they do the dentist and dental hygiene licenses. Furthermore, we request that SB No. 993 be amended to include the dental hygiene mid level provider (also agreed to during last years PRI process) as stated in the 2012 HB 5541 and then vote to adopt it for this 2013 legislative session.

Presently, most Registered Dental Hygienist graduate with a Bachelors' degree; thereby many are ready to take the next step to midlevel.

**Please call me for further information.** Our association has given the Public Health Committee background information and would be willing to answer any matter that needs clarification. I hope when you have time you will call me and let me give you a tour and explanation of the dental public health program in my city.

Thank you for your time and consideration. **Please oppose HB No. 6589 and amend SB No. 993 on my behalf.**

**All the best,**

**Celeste**

Celeste Baranowski, RDH

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